Integrated Test Facilities

*371. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Integrated Test Facilities (ITF) of Jessop and Company Ltd. is being treated as National Test House for testing of underground Mining Roof Supports for use in the Indian Mines;

(b) if so, whether the same purpose can be served after the proposed privatisation/disinvestment of Jessop and Company Ltd.; and

(c) if not, the action taken by Government to maintain the present status of ITF?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes sir.

(b) Under the terms of disinvestment the Government would be retaining 26% equity in Jessop and Co. Ltd. It is expected that the Company would continue to be treated as a National Test House subject to fulfilment of performance standards as may be stipulated by the Directorate General of Mines Safety.

(c) Does not arise.

Carry forward of unused telephone calls

*372. SHRIMATI VANG A GEETHA: Will of Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to carry forward unused telephone calls to next quarter of the year; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD M AH A J AN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The number of free calls clubbed with the rental is a part of the

tariff regime. Regulation of tariff is a function of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in terms of TRAI Act, 1997 and TRAI (Amendment) Act, 2000. All the telecom service providers in the country are bound to follow the Telecom Tariff Orders as notified by TRAI from time to time.

Allocation of shops and PDS dealership to SCs/STs in tribal areas

*373. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will of Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken to allocate shops and PDS dealership in tribal areas to SC/ST categories only; and

(b) the action taken to sanction loan to the allottees from the National Scheduled Caste Financial Development Corporation (N.S.F.D.C.) with sale guarantee?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) The Public Distribution System (PDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments. The licensing/ opening of Fair Price Shops arid other PDS outlets falls within the purview of the respective State Governments. However, the Government of India has suggested to the State Governments to reserve a certain percentage of Fair Price Shops and PDS outlets for persons belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes.

(b) No proposal for sanction of loans to the allottees of Fair Price Shops/PDS outlets has been received by the National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation.

Employment growth

*374. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of employment growth in the country during the period 1987—1994 and 1994—2001, period wise, separately;